

2020 EDITION

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS FOR KIDS

**A FIVE-LESSON COMPANION TO
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS FOR
ELEMENTARY-AGE CHILDREN.**

cgpkids

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS FOR KIDS

ON CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for including your children in *Membership Matters!* Church membership is an essential part of our discipleship journey. It places us in a loving community where we learn about God's Word, fellowship with other believers, receive Christian care, and find opportunities to give and serve others in Jesus' name.

This guide is intended for elementary-age children and is a companion to the *Membership Matters* course provided by the Church of God of Prophecy International Offices.

The Church of God of Prophecy holds an individual's experience of salvation as the qualification for Church membership. Because the Bible affirms children can experience salvation, they are eligible for church membership. The administering of the church covenant should be considered in communication with the child's parent/guardian and local church pastor.

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ONLINE RESOURCES

Visit www.cogop.org/children for these additional free resources:

- The Value and Spiritual Life of Children
- Walk with Jesus Discipleship Lessons
- Developing Leaders, Impacting Kids Podcast
- Foundations for Kids - *New! Arriving in Fall 2020.*

LESSON 1: NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Opening Activity: About Me

Materials Needed: About Me Worksheet, Pencils

Have the child complete their ABOUT ME sheet (parents may also complete forms with their child, or the questions can be asked verbally by the instructor). Ask the child to introduce themselves to the class by answering the following questions:

- What is your name?
- What is your favorite part of the day?
- What is your favorite food? Why?
- What do you like most about coming to church?

Part One: Your Life in Christ

Who Can Become a Member of the Church?

*Welcome the children by saying, **God loves us. So, he created the church to help us better love and follow Him. We find in the Bible that the church is made up of people. We have the whole church; this is every person who believes and has a relationship with God. We also have smaller and local groups of believers who gather and meet together; this is just like our church!***

Since God's children are the church, when we meet and gather in places, we call those places churches. However, it's not the building that makes the church, it is the people!

Optional Game: In the Light

Materials Needed: Coins or buttons (balled up aluminum foil could also be used), Bowl or treasure chest, Blindfolds (one for each child), Candy or treats for prizes

Instructions: Take your students outside your classroom. Bring blindfolds. Tell them that when they go back into the classroom, there will be treasure for them to find. Hold up one coin (button or piece of aluminum foil) so they can identify it as the treasure they seek. Tell them that they will be able to exchange their "treasure" for a treat after they find all the pieces of treasure.

While the children are blindfolded, you or an assistant should return to your classroom and toss the pieces of treasure onto the floor. Make sure several pieces are hidden in areas and are difficult to find. Remove any sharp objects or items that could present a fall hazard for your children. Finally, turn out the lights to make the darkness even greater and hold the treasure bowl quietly. Have students put on their blindfolds and reenter the classroom to search for the treasure. Allow time for them to get a piece or two and then become frustrated.

Explain, “You are looking for treasure in the darkness. It’s kind of frustrating, isn’t it? Wouldn’t it be so much easier if we were looking in a great light?” Turn on the light switch and tell them to take off their blindfolds.

“If we walk in the light of Christ, we can often see more clearly to make the best decisions. Look in the light. Your treasure was always right in front of you, wasn’t it? Now you have light to see that.” Allow the children to find the remaining hidden treasures. Remember to reward them with a prize in exchange for their treasure.

In order to join and become a member of our local church, there is only one thing that you need to know. You need to know that you are a Christian. Our relationship with Jesus is what connects us as Christians. Christians are people who walk in God’s light and the loving path that He has created for them.

How Can I Know I Am a Christian?

Materials Needed: Lesson One Worksheet, Pencils, Bibles for each child

The Bible has a lot to say about what it means to be a Christian – one of God’s followers. Let’s Read About It!

- 1 John 1:7 – I know that I am a Christian if I follow Jesus – the light of the world.
- 1 John 1:9 – I know that I am a Christian if I confess my sins.
- 1 John 2:3 – I know that I am a Christian if I obey God’s commandments.
- 1 John 3:9 – I know that I am a Christian if I try not to sin.
- 1 John 3:14 – I know that I am a Christian if I love all of God’s children.
- 1 John 5:10 – I know that I am a Christian if I believe in Jesus – the Son of God.

Discuss: Talk about how each of these should be practiced and lived out in our daily lives. What does it mean to be light like Jesus? What does it mean to love all of God’s children?

Note: It is possible that you may have children in your ministry who have not yet accepted Christ as their Savior. Be prepared to lovingly share the Gospel message with them and give an invitation for them to receive salvation, should the Holy Spirit direct you to do so.

What Can I Do After I Become a Christian?

Materials Needed: Handouts for Lesson One Worksheet, Pencils, Bibles for each child

Once you become a follower of Jesus, your life changes and is different. There are special church practices that you can participate in because of this. Let's Read About It!

Read Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 3:21

In these scriptures we read that when we become followers of Jesus, we should get baptized. This is a way that we can show and share with others that we have made the decision to become a Christian. Jesus was baptized and he gave the church instructions to be baptized so we can be like Him.

Read Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Christians get to participate in a special time at church called communion. We take communion so that we can remember Jesus and how He gave His life for us so that we can be God's children. Christians take communion together. The bread or cracker represents Jesus' body that was hurt for us, and the juice represents the blood that left His body. We remember His love for us when we take communion and also can think about Him still being alive and coming again.

What Will My Life Look Like After I Become a Christian?

We read in Galatians 5:22-23 about how we will become more like God if we truly are following Him. The Holy Spirit helps us and give us many new Godly characteristics. We call these the "Fruit of the Spirit." They are:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self-Control

Optional Activity: Fruit Inspection

Materials Needed: Lesson One Worksheet, Pencils

Have the children take a moment and think of which Fruit of the Spirit might be most evident or visible in their own life. Have them write it down on their worksheet. Next, have the children identify which Fruit of the Spirit they might desire to have more of in their life. Spend a moment in prayer thanking God for His gifts and also asking Him to help the children to grow and develop in the areas they want to become more like Him.

Part Two: Your Story in Christ

Every person that becomes a Christian has a story. Your story is all about how you became a follower of Jesus. Maybe it happened at church or maybe it happened one day when you were talking with your family.

Our story about how we come to trust and believe in Jesus helps and encourages other people to trust and believe in Him too! Your story may look and sound different from your friends, your pastor, and even your family member. That is okay; your story is special and something only you can tell.

God has a story too. We can find it in the Bible. It is the story of how He loves us and cares for us. If you know and believe in God, then you have a story too! Another word for our story and how we came to become a Christian is testimony. When we share our story with others, we are sharing our testimony.

Activity: Prepare to Tell Your Story

Materials Needed: Lesson One Worksheet, Pencils

The Bible tells in us 1 Peter 3:15, “...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” We have to be prepared to share our story with others!

Have the children complete their worksheet by answering the following questions. When finished, ask the children to share their story with the class.

1. How old was I when I decided to become a follower of God?
2. What happened when I made the decision to follow God?
3. How has following God made my life different?
4. Why is following God and being a Christian important to me?

Closing

Conclude the session with a time of prayer. Thank God for each child's story of coming into relationship with Him.

ALL ABOUT ME

MY NAME



MY FRIENDS ARE

• _____
• _____
• _____

MY FAVORITE FOODS



SELF PORTRAIT



I LIKE TO WATCH

○ _____
○ _____
○ _____

I'M FEELING...

MY SUPERPOWER IS _____
What is your favorite part of the day?



3 WORDS THAT

Di _____
What do you like most about coming to church?



I'M REALLY GOOD AT



FAVORITE ACTIVITIES

□ _____
□ _____
□ _____
□ _____



Your Name: _____

LESSON 1: NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Your Life in Christ

Who Can Become a Member of the Church?

God created the church to help us to better _____ and _____ Him.

The church is made up of _____.

Our _____ with Jesus is what connects us as Christians. Christians are people who walk in God's _____ and the loving path that He has created for them.

What does it mean to walk in God's light?

Let's Read About It!



1 John 1:7 – I know that I am a Christian if _____.

1 John 1:9 – I know that I am a Christian if _____.

1 John 2:3 – I know that I am a Christian if _____.

1 John 3:9 – I know that I am a Christian if _____.

1 John 3:14 – I know that I am a Christian if _____.

1 John 5:10 – I know that I am a Christian if _____.

What Can I Do After I Become a Christian?

Once you become a follower of Jesus, your life changes and is different. There are special church practices that you can participate in because of this.



Matthew 28:29; 1 Peter 3:21

Jesus was _____ and He gave the church instructions to be _____ so we can be like Him.



Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-36

We take _____ at so that we can remember Jesus and how He gave His life for us so that we can be God's children. The bread or cracker represents Jesus' _____ that was hurt for us, and the juice represents the _____ that left His body.

What Will My Life Look Like After I Become a Christian?

The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Which Fruit of the Spirit do you see in your own life? _____

Which Fruit of the Spirit would you like for God to help develop in you?

You Have a Story!

Every person that becomes a Christian has a _____.

Our story about how we came to trust and believe in Jesus helps and encourages other people to also want to trust and believe in Him too!

Another word that we use to describe our story of how we became a Christian is _____.

Prepare to Tell Your Story

How old was I when I decided to become a follower of God?

What happened when I made the decision to follow God?

How has following God made my life different?

Why is following God and being a Christian important to me?

LESSON 2: BELONGING TO GOD'S FAMILY

Opening Activity: I Remember You

Last week the children introduced themselves to one another by completing an ABOUT ME sheet. They shared answers to the following questions:

- What is your name?
- What is your favorite part of the day?
- What is your favorite food? Why?
- What do you like most about coming to church?

Call out each child's name, one at a time, asking if someone remembers something that another child shared about themselves.

Activity: The Church is God's Idea!

Materials Needed: Lesson Two Worksheet, Pencils, Tape or a piece of cloth for each child, items of various sizes and shapes

When God created mankind, he made us to live in relationships—relationship with Him and with others who believe in Him! Romans 12:5 says:

“...in Christ we are one body. And each part of the body belongs to all the other parts (Romans 12:5, NIV).”

Think about your body. Is there any part of your body that you would want to do without? Doesn't every part of your body have a purpose? What if you no longer had thumbs? How would your life change without them? Are your thumbs important?

Instructions: Using tape or cloth, tie down the thumbs of each child. Ask them to do a variety of activities such as writing their name, picking up items of differing size, or throwing a large ball. After the activity, discuss how important each part of the human body is. Explain that the same is true in the body of Christ and God has given each person a gift to serve others.

Let's Read About It!

Materials Needed: Lesson Two Worksheet, Pencils, Bible for each child

Romans 12 tells us that when we become followers of Jesus, we become part of the body of Christ. Let's see what the Bible says about being part of this family.

- Read Ephesians 2:19. **Church connects us to other believers.**
- Read Galatians 6:1, 2 and Hebrews 10:24, 25. **Church provides a spiritual family to care for us, help us and to encourage us in our walk with Christ.**

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. **Church gives us a place to discover and use the gifts God has given us.**
- Read Acts 20:28, 29 and Hebrews 13:17. **Church gives us godly leaders to learn from and to follow.**
- Read Ephesians 4:11–13. **Leaders in the church give us opportunities to serve and help us to grow in Christ.**

Let's Talk About It!

Materials Needed: Lesson Two Worksheet, Pencils

Explain, A Christian without a church is like...

- **A musician without an orchestra.**
- **A sheep without a flock.**

1.) The church is a loving place to belong.

You are family here! At church you are welcomed, respected, and loved... especially as a kid! At church, you can form relationships to last your entire lifetime! Here, you will have opportunities to know and serve along with other members of God's family! Invite the children to share ways that they can help others feel like they "belong" to our church family.

2.) The church is a place to worship and learn about God and His Word, the Bible.

At church we do a lot of things! We sing together to praise God. We pray together. Sometimes just one of us prays and other times we all pray together. We learn about God and His Word through teachers and hear sermons by preachers. Invite the children to share their favorite parts of the church service.

3.) The church is here to care for you.

We all experience sad or difficult times in our lives. Our church family is here to pray and help us when we encounter these times. Invite the children to share any way that their church friends have shown love or support for their family.

4.) The church gives us a place to serve.

In order to grow in your relationship with Christ, you need to use your God-given gifts to serve others. The church gives you a place to use those gifts to help others not only in our church, but also in our community and around the world. Invite the children to consider their own gifts, abilities, and talents, and how they can use them to serve their church.

Closing

Invite willing children to name one aspect of their church that they are thankful for. List them and lead them in a time of thanksgiving.

Your Name: _____

LESSON 2: BELONGING TO GOD'S FAMILY

The Church is God's Idea!

When God created mankind, he designed us to live in _____ —
with _____ and with _____ who believe in Him!

Romans 12:5 says: "...in Christ we are one body. And each part of the body belongs to all the other parts (Romans 12:5, NIV).

Think about your body. Is there any part of your body that you would want to do without? Doesn't every part of your body have a purpose? What if you no longer had thumbs? How would your life change without them? Are your thumbs important?

Let's Read About It!

Romans 12 tells us that when we become followers of Jesus, we become part of the body of Christ. Read the following passages to discover what the Bible says about being part of the body of Christ

Ephesians 2:19. Church _____ us to other believers.

Galatians 6:1, 2 Church provides a spiritual family to _____ for us,
Hebrews 10:24, 25 _____ us, and to _____ us in our
walk with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 Church gives us a place to discover and use the
_____ God has given us.

Acts 20:28, 29 Church gives us godly _____ to learn
Hebrews 13:17 from and to follow.

Ephesians 4:11-13 Leaders in the church give us opportunities to
_____ and help us to
_____ in Christ.

Let's Read About It!

The church is a loving place to _____. You are family here! At church you are welcomed, respected, and loved...especially as a kid! At church, you can form relationships to last your entire life!

The church is a place to _____ and _____ about God and His Word, the Bible. At church we do a lot of things! We sing together to praise God. We pray together, sometimes just one of us prays and other times we all pray together. We learn about God and His Word through teachers and hear sermons by preachers.

The church is here to _____ for you. We all experience sad or difficult times in our lives. When you do, your church family will be here to pray and help us when we encounter these times.

The church gives us a place to _____. In order to grow in your relationship with Christ, you need to use your God-given gifts to serve others. The church gives you a place to use those gifts to help others not only in our church, but also in our community and around the world.

LESSON 3: OUR LOCAL CHURCH

Introduction and Review

Spend a few moments reviewing last week's lesson with the children. *Then say,* **This week is all about OUR church! As you know, our church is part of a larger group of Christians from all over the world.**

What Do We Do At Church?

Materials Needed: Lesson Three Worksheet, Pencils

When we meet and gather at church, we are worshiping God. Worshiping God means that we give ourselves to Him out of love. The Bible says in John 4:24, “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Worship always begins with the one who created us – God! The more we learn about God and His character, the more we will understand who He is and desire to gather and focus on Him.

Many churches have different things they do each week in their worship services. No church is identical, but there may be some things that are the same. Some people worship God in big church buildings and some worship in small church buildings. Some people worship God in a house and some worship outside. What matters most is that God is the One that is being worshiped and that all of it is for Him. All Christian churches believe and teach that God's Word, the Bible, is true and we are to worship God and grow in our faith.

When we gather for our church services, there are several things that typically happen. I want you to know what these are and why we do them.

- **Singing/Praise and Worship – Music and song is a way that people express their love and thankfulness to God when they are at church. It is a special time when the people of the church can participate together as one group. Singing and praising God helps us to focus our hearts and minds on Him.**
- **Prayer – We can talk to God anytime when we are alone. At church, we have the privilege to pray for and support each other. Prayer is practiced in the Bible and it reminds us that God hears us and wants to be close to us since we are His children. Sometimes you will hear only one person pray, at other times we pray together in one group. Some people pray very loudly. Other people pray softly.**

Whichever way you pray, you can be sure God hears you and is working for you.

- **Offering/Tithes** – God created and owns everything. To show our love and thanks to Him, we have the opportunity to give what we have back to Him. The church uses this money to love and serve those that come, as well as to bless those that do not know Him. This money helps people who live nearby and those who may even live far away in other places.
- **Teaching/Preaching** – A pastor or teacher usually shares scripture from God’s word at church. This special time helps us to understand the Bible better and also how we are to live as Christians. God always has something new to teach us from His word.
- **Fellowship** – Fellowship is when we spend time with other Christians. It is a great way for us to be encouraged in our relationship with God and to share what God is doing in our lives. Fellowship is how Christians learn about one another and care for each other as God’s family.

Object Lesson: The Membership Promise

Materials Needed: Envelope with a Stamp

Every day, people make promises. I’m sure someone has made promises to you before and you have probably also made promises to other people. Sometimes when we make promises, we give something to someone as a reminder or a sign of that promise.

Hold up envelope. I have here with me an ordinary envelope that people all over the world use to mail letters and other important documents. In the middle of the envelope you can always find the address or the destination where the envelope is intended to go. Also, on the envelope there is a special place for a stamp. We buy stamps from the post office as a promise that our letter or package will go to the address or destination we have listed. No matter the weather or how far the destination, the mail should arrive at the location. The stamp represents that promise.

In order to become a member of our church, there is a promise that you make that every other member has also made. Another word for promise that we find in the Bible is covenant. God is the ultimate maker and keeper of covenants, so when we make a covenant, we should remember that we are to be like God and keep our covenant as well.

When you become a member of the church, you are making a covenant before God and the whole church that you will believe and practice. This promise is made in front of your church to show your commitment to Jesus and God's Word.

When someone joins the church, the pastor invites them to come up in front of the church congregation. He or she will ask the person to put their hand on the Bible and say, "I will," to this question:

"Will you sincerely promise in the presence of God and these witnesses that you will

- accept the Bible as the Word of God;**
- believe and practice its teaching, rightly divided, the New Testament as your rule of faith and practice, government, and discipline; and**
- walk in the light to the best of your knowledge and ability?"**

When we agree and say, "I will," to becoming a member of the church, we are promising in front of God and our church family that we will:

- Trust that the Bible is from God**
- Believe and follow the teachings in the Bible and use it for guidance in all parts of life**
- Love and honor God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.**

Discuss: Why are covenants important to God? Who in the Bible did God make a covenant to? Why should we as Christians take covenants seriously?

Closing

Share your personal story of becoming a covenant member of the church. *How old were you? How did you feel going in front of the entire congregation? What did it mean to you to become a member of the church?*

If children will be given the opportunity to join the church once completing *Membership Matters for Kids*, explain to them any additional processes your church will be requiring to prepare them, such as getting parental/guardian permission, the date for receiving the covenant, etc.

Your Name: _____

LESSON 3: OUR LOCAL CHURCH

What Do We Do At Church?

When we meet and gather at church, we _____ God. Worshiping God means that we give ourselves to Him out of _____. The Bible says in John 4:24, *“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”*

Worship always begins with the one who created us – _____! The more we learn about God and His character, the more we will understand who He is and desire to gather and focus on Him.

There are several parts that make up a basic church service. They are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Pick one of the parts of a church service listed above. Draw what that specific part looks like at your local church below.

The Membership Promise

In order to become a member of the church, there is a _____ that you have to make. Another word for promise that we find in the Bible is _____. God is the ultimate maker and keeper of covenants, so when we make a covenant, we should remember that we are to be like God and _____ our covenant as well.

“Will you sincerely promise in the presence of God and these witnesses that you will

- **Accept the Bible as the Word of God;**
- **Believe and practice its teaching, rightly divided, the New Testament as your rule of faith and practice, government, and discipline; and**
- **Walk in the light to the best of your knowledge and ability?”**

When we agree and say, “I will,” to becoming a member of the church, we are promising in front of God and our church family that we will:

- Trust that the Bible is from God
- Believe and follow the teachings in the Bible and use it for guidance in all parts of life
- Love and honor God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Let’s Talk About It!

Why are covenants important to God?

Who in the Bible did God make a covenant to?

Why should we as Christians take covenants seriously?

LESSON 4: OUR BIG, BEAUTIFUL FAMILY

Introduction and Review

Spend a few moments reviewing last week's lesson with the children.

As we get started today, I'd like to ask you to look at your shoes. *Direct children to do so.* **Now, look at the shoes of those around you. Are they different? Do any of us have the same shoes?**

How are shoes the same? *Allow responses.* **All shoes go on our feet, right? How are they different?** *Allow responses.* **Shoes come in different styles, colors, sizes, have different purposes, and are made of different materials, aren't they? Wearing a sandal is very different than wearing a boot or sneaker.**

Christianity is similar to this. All Christians believe in God and the Bible. Most celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas and remember His resurrection at Easter. But not all churches that are Christian are the same. There are many different kinds of churches and they all have things that are similar and things that are different. As you drive through our community you see many different churches, don't you? You might even have friends that believe in Jesus, just like you, but they go to a different church.

This week is all about OUR church family all around the world! Our church is part of a family called the Church of God of Prophecy. Have you ever heard that name? Let's talk more about it.

What is the Church of God of Prophecy?

Our church is part of a global family called the Church of God of Prophecy. We have sister churches all over the world in places like Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America! Over one million people are members of this church family and most of them live in places outside of the United States! There are Church of God of Prophecy congregations in over 130 countries of the world. Our church family is made of men and women, boys and girls, of all ages and races.

Optional Activity: “Follow the Recipe”

Preparation: Find a simple recipe the children can make and gather the necessary supplies to make it in class.

Have you ever prepared something to eat that wasn't good? Have you ever built something that didn't work? Why do these things happen? *Allow children to answer. Usually this happens because we don't follow instructions. Today you are going to make a special treat. Be sure to follow the instructions correctly. Allow the children to prepare something to eat by following a simple recipe. Then allow them to enjoy what they prepared.*

Why was it important to follow the recipe? *Allow children to answer. The Word of God is like a recipe. We can find God's words in the Bible. If we want our lives to be full of blessings, we need to obey His Word. We need to serve Him the way He wants.*

The story of our church began with a very small group of people who decided that they didn't just want to know about the Bible. They wanted to live their lives exactly as God's Word said they should. So, they began to seek God for direction. Because they did, we are all here today and are joined with millions of people around the world who still seek after God.

How did the Church of God of Prophecy Begin?

Materials Needed: Lesson Four Worksheet, Pencils

Invite volunteers to read through the history of the church provided on their worksheet. Ask them to highlight or circle the names of people or places they find, as well as any dates mentioned.

The Church of God of Prophecy began over one hundred years ago in the mountains of North Carolina in the United States. A small group of men and women wanted to know God more closely than they had before and they wanted to follow His Word, the Bible, just as it was written. The group began meeting at a place called Barney Creek in the year 1886.

A preacher from Indiana named AJ Tomlinson was invited to study God's Word with the small group on June 13, 1903. They were meeting in the home of a man named WF Bryant. AJ had met with the small group many times and always felt welcomed by his friends.

On the night prior to their time of study, AJ climbed a mountain near WF's home. It was called Burger Mountain. AJ prayed all night long! As he prayed, God spoke to AJ's heart and gave him a vision of a church that God would help him lead. AJ came back down the mountain and became a member of the church that was meeting in WF's home. Soon, AJ became the leader of the group and new churches were started in many states around those mountains. The churches soon became called the Church of God and continued to spread to many more states. In 1911, AJ led a small

group a people that sailed to the Bahamas to establish the church's first congregation outside the United States. AJ's group later became known as the Church of God of Prophecy.

Today, the Church of God of Prophecy is in all fifty states and more than 130 countries around the world! Both men and women serve as pastors in our churches and there are leaders serving all around the world of different races, colors, and languages!

Activity: History Quiz

Materials Needed: Lesson Four Worksheet, Pencils

Invite the children to complete the History Quiz found on the Lesson Four Worksheet. The answers can be found by reviewing the historical profile on the worksheet. You may choose to allow children to work in groups. Review their answers.

Answer Key:

1. The Church of God of Prophecy began how many years ago? (Circle one)

More than 100 years ago

More than 150 years ago

More than 200 years ago

2. What was the name of the preacher from Indiana that came to North Carolina to study God's Word with the people from Barney Creek? **AJ Tomlinson**

3. What was the date that the group all met together at WF Bryant's home? **June 13, 1903**

4. Where was the first church started outside of the United States? **Bahamas**

5. How many countries now have a Church of God of Prophecy? **More than 130**

Optional: The All Nations Flag

Materials Needed: All Nations Flag Worksheet, crayons or markers.

Note: We are aware that some churches do not display the All Nations Flag in their facility. However, if you do, this section is recommended to help the children understand its significance.

Did you know the Church of God of Prophecy has a special flag displayed and flown in many churches around the world? It's called the All Nations Flag and was designed in 1933. The All Nations Flag represents Jesus, who the Bible calls "the Truth." The flag has many symbols and colors that remind us of who Jesus is. Let me show you the flag. Show the children the

church flag from your building or the color version provided at the end of this lesson.

The colors of the flag are red, white, blue, and purple. The red represents the blood of our Savior, the white represents purity, the blue represents truth, and the purple represents royalty. The flag has three symbols, a scepter, a star, and a crown, and they all represent Jesus' royalty and that He is the King of Kings. The flag also has blue stripes at the top and bottom that do not meet.

Invite the children to complete the All Nations Flag Worksheet. Display your flag or color printout as a model for their work.

Closing Activity: My Big, Global Family

Material Needed: Map or globe of the world, List of Nations from page ____.

Provide the children with a map or globe of the world. Invite each child to select a nation or state on the map. Using the list of nations provided with this lesson, look up the nation to see if it is listed as one of the nations where the Church of God of Prophecy is established. If found, pray with the children for the church family in that nation. If it is not found, pray with the children that God would open a door for the church to begin there.

Your Name: _____

LESSON 4: OUR BIG, BEAUTIFUL FAMILY

Let's Read About It!

Let's read about the history of the Church of God of Prophecy. Highlight or circle the names of people or places, as well as any dates mentioned.

The Church of God of Prophecy began over one hundred years ago in the mountains of North Carolina in the United States. A small group of men and women wanted to know God more closely than they had before and they wanted to follow His Word, the Bible, just as it was written. The group began meeting at a place called Barney Creek in the year 1886.

A preacher from Indiana named AJ Tomlinson was invited to study God's Word with the small group on June 13, 1903. They were meeting in the home of a man named WF Bryant. AJ had met with the small group many times and always felt welcomed by his friends.

On the night prior to their time of study, AJ climbed a mountain near WF's home. It was called Burger Mountain. AJ prayed all night long! As he prayed, God spoke to AJ's heart and gave him a vision of a church that God would help him lead. AJ came back down the mountain and became a member of the church that was meeting in WF's home. Soon, AJ became the leader of the group and new churches were started in many states around those mountains. The churches soon became called the Church of God and continued to spread to many more states. In 1911, AJ led a small group of people that sailed to the Bahamas to establish the church's first congregation outside the United States. AJ's group later became known as the Church of God of Prophecy.

Today, the Church of God of Prophecy is in all fifty states and more than 130 countries around the world! Both men and women serve as pastors in our churches and they are leaders serving all around the world of different races, colors, and languages!

Quiz Time

1. The Church of God of Prophecy began how many years ago? (Circle one)

More than 100 years ago

More than 150 years ago

More than 200 years ago

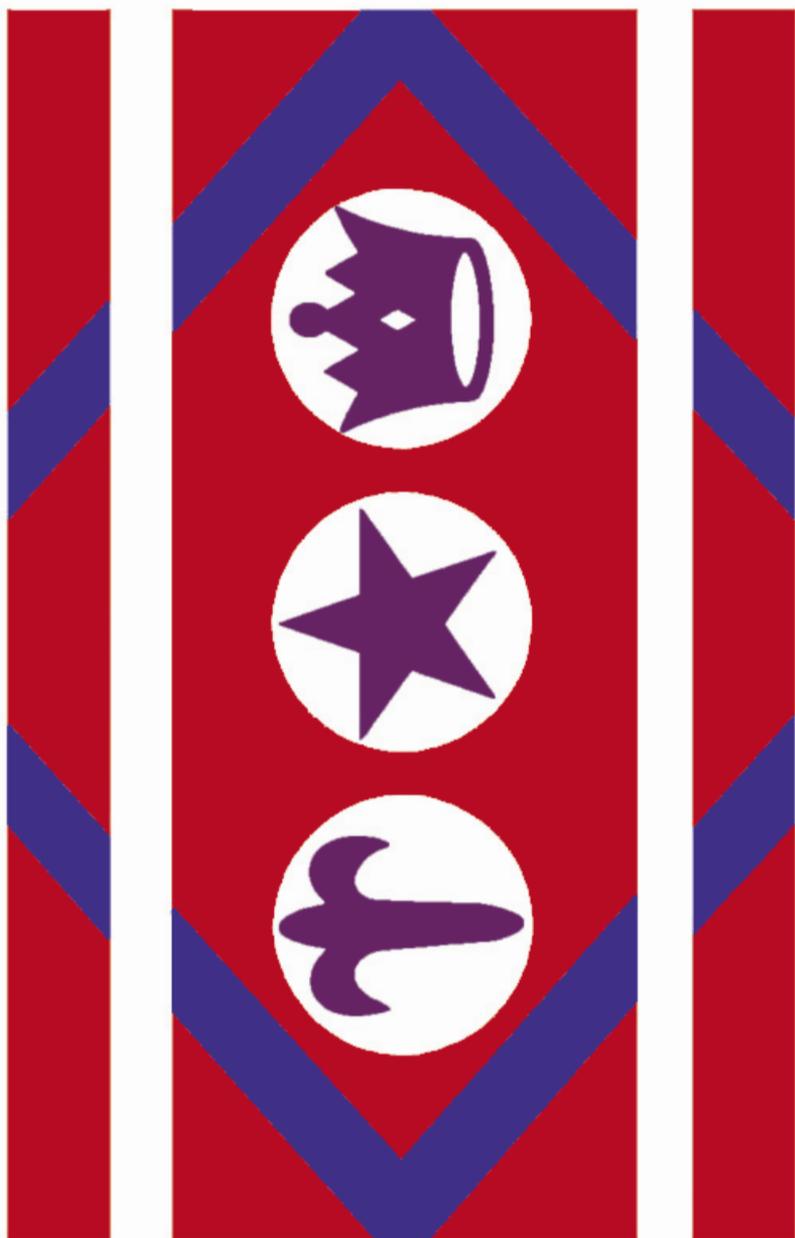
2. What was the name of the preacher from Indiana that came to North Carolina to study God's Word with the people from Barney Creek?

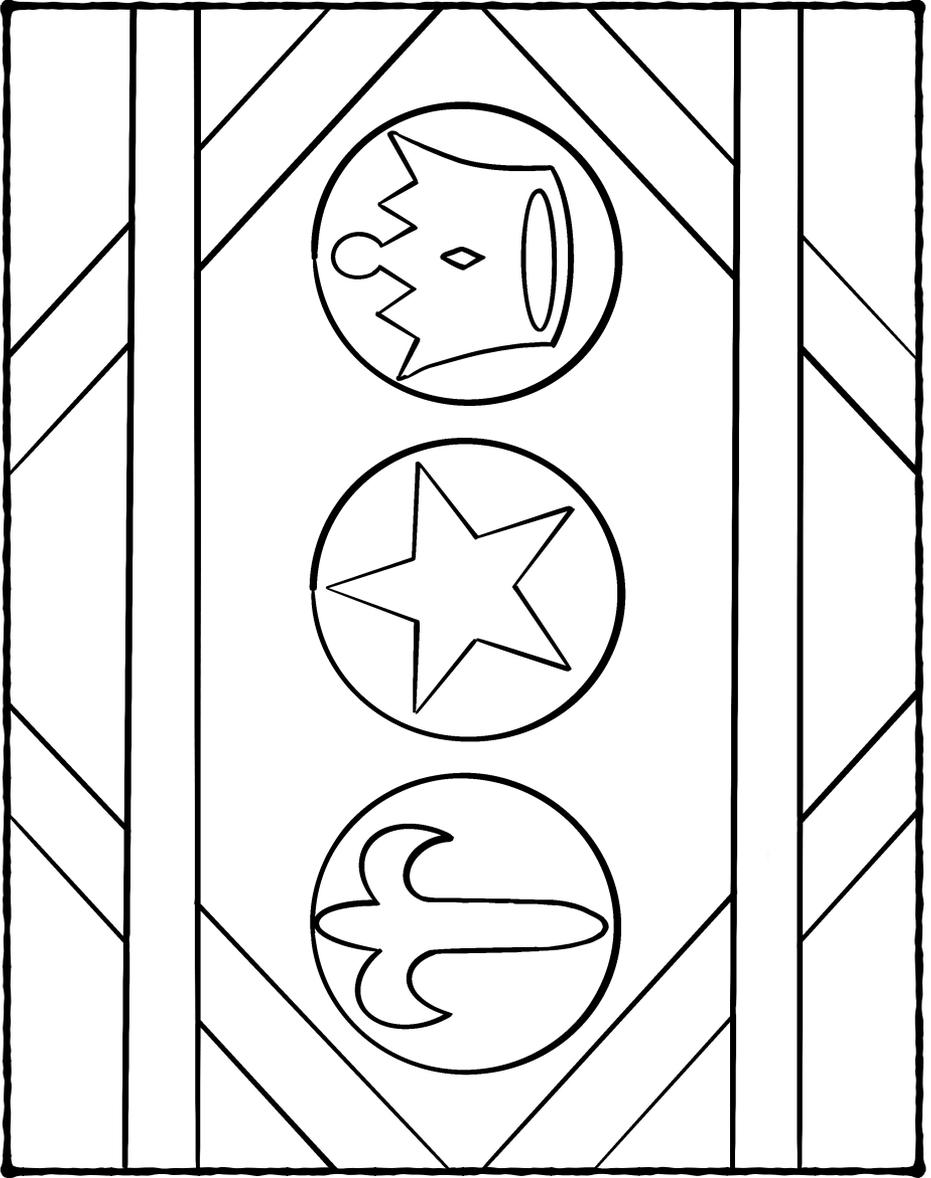
3. What was the date that the group all met together at WF Bryant's home? _____

4. Where was the first church started outside of the United States? _____

5. How many countries now have a Church of God of Prophecy? _____

TM





LIST OF NATIONS

Africa

Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burundi
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo Brazzaville
Democratic Republic of Congo
Djibouti
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea Bissau
Guinea Conakry
Guinea-Equatorial
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Malawi
Mali
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia, Australia, and Oceania

Australia
Eastern Asia
Fiji Islands
India
Indonesia

Kiribati
Japan
Malaysia
Myanmar
Nepal
New Zealand
Pakistan
Philippines
Rabi Islands
Samoa Islands
Singapore
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Tuvalu

Caribbean

Anguilla
Antigua
Aruba
Bahamas
Barbados
Barbuda
Bermuda
Bonaire
Cayman Islands
Curacao
Dominica
French Guiana
Grenada
The Grenadines
Guadeloupe
Guyana Haiti
Jamaica
Leeward Islands
Martinique
Montserrat
Nevis
St. Kitts
St. Lucia
St. Maarten
St. Martin
St. Vincent
Suriname
Tobago
Trinidad
Turks and Caicos Islands
Virgin Islands (U.S. & British)

Central America

Belize
Costa Rica

Cuba
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Nicaragua
Panamá
Puerto Rico

Europe and Middle East

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Cyprus
Egypt
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Israel
Italy
Kazakhstan
Malta
The Netherlands
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Spain
Ukraine
United Kingdom
Uzbekistan

North America

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Canada
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia

Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
México
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

South America

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Paraguay
Perú
Uruguay
Venezuela

LESSON 5: WHAT NOW?

Introduction and Review

Spend a few moments reviewing last week's lesson with the children

Say, Churches stay busy meeting the needs of the people in the church, community, and world. When you promise to become a member of the church, you are also promising to take part in all of the ways your church serves and blesses others. We believe that every member of the church is able to minister and love; this includes men, women, boys, and girls.

Personal Promises

Materials Needed: Lesson Five Worksheet, Pencils

Becoming a member of church means there are certain ways you can now help support everything your church is doing.

- I will have love and peace. When you make this promise you are saying that you will love all members and not say anything hurtful towards them or other people. This also means that you will show forgiveness when people do make mistakes. You will also be kind and respectful to your pastors and leaders and try your best to follow the Bible and church teachings.
- I will serve. This means that you will use the talents and gifts God has given you to bless and encourage others. Everyone has different gifts, but all of them are needed for the church to grow and reach people.
- I will support. You can support your church first of all by coming and participating. The life you live outside of church is also a way that you can show your love and support; people see your actions and decisions and will look to that when they think about your church. You may not have a lot of money that you can give to your church, but you can always get involved and give your time and energy to help.
- I will be responsible. Sharing about your church and being kind to those who visit is a great way for you to be a responsible member. It is important that you also remember your relationship with God is most important. This relationship will help you be a great friend and blessing to other people in your church who may need encouragement or the reminder of God's love.

Growing

Materials Needed: Lesson Five Worksheet, Pencils, Seeds, dirt/soil ready

Hold up a seed when introducing each way that we grow as Christians. When we plant seeds to make food or plants, it can be a lot of hard work. It takes time and the proper nutrients to help the seed to grow and develop. It is the same for us as Christians. We are to grow and become more like God. We can become more like Him by growing in our faith, growing in prayer, and growing in Christ.

Growing in Faith

We read in scripture that faith is the foundation for the life of the Christian (Hebrews 11:6). God's Word, the Bible, is the source of our faith. We can trust and believe that everything found in God's word is true. The Bible says that everyone is given their own measure of faith. We have to let the seed of faith grow in us. The stronger our faith, the easier it is for us to face life and challenges. There are several people in the Bible who had great faith.

Discuss: *Who are some men and women in the Bible who had great faith? Did they face challenges that were easy or hard? What makes someone with faith different from someone without faith?*

Growing in Prayer

Materials Needed: Lesson Five Worksheet, Pencils, Blank Thank You Cards

Why should we pray?

Prayer is a way that we can be reminded of God's love for us. When we talk to God, He listens. We also have the opportunity to listen to God when we pray. Jesus prayed and instructed us to follow His example. Prayer is our way of showing God that we love Him, need Him, and are thankful for Him.

What is prayer?

Prayer is when we spend time with God listening and talking to Him. When we pray, we get closer to God and become more aware of who He is in our life. Prayer takes work and isn't always easy; sometimes we may not feel like praying, but it is something we should work at daily.

How should we pray?

The Bible says that when we pray we should believe and have faith that God will hear and answer our prayers. This means that we do not give up on praying to Him.

What are the different types of prayers?

God hears all prayers. There may be a specific reason why we are praying or a certain way that we talk to God. We do not have to be afraid or scared to pray because the Holy Spirit helps us to pray. The Bible tells us that we

are to not stop praying for our requests. There are times we may pray to God and ask Him for His help and strength for ourselves or for other people. There also may be times when we pray that we thank God for all He has done and for being such a great and loving God.

Who can pray?

As believers, we can each talk to God on our own when we are alone or by ourselves. God sees us and hears us no matter the time or place. We can pray in small groups with just a few people. The entire church can pray and talk to God. In the Bible, the church would worship, praise, and tell God thank you when they were together.

Optional Activity: Pass out blank thank you cards (blank paper will work) and have the children write 3-5 sentences of thankfulness to God as a prayer. For example, *“Thank you God for my family and friends. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for helping me when I am afraid.”*

Growing in Christ

When we made the decision to follow Jesus, we became His disciples! This means that we are following His teachings to the very best of our ability and keep growing in Him. Our growth in knowing, loving, and serving Jesus never stops. There is always more to learn. As we learn and grow, we will notice the Holy Spirit working in us and through us making us more like Jesus. We will have the desire to love Him and His word with our everything.

Jesus gave some specific tasks to his disciples. He said, *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it”* (Matthew 16:24-25).

- **DENY YOURSELF** – This means not doing what you want but doing what God desires and putting other people first.
- **TAKE UP YOUR CROSS** – Jesus had to carry a heavy cross on His way to die. There are going to be hard and heavy things you face as a Christian. You must take them and carry them; the great news is that the Holy Spirit will help you!
- **FOLLOW ME** – “Follow me” was the simple words Jesus commanded. This means that our lives are totally given to Him and we are living our lives as the Bible tells us.

Conclusion

Pray for each child in the class to take their own spiritual growth seriously. Pray they become dependent on the Holy Spirit and have the desire to be true followers of Jesus. Pray that God’s gifts will be affirmed and shown to them and that they too will be ministers in their own worlds.

Your Name: _____

LESSON 5: WHAT NOW?

Every member of the church is able to minister and love; this includes men, women, boys, and girls!

Personal Promises

- I will _____.
- I will _____.
- I will _____.
- I will _____.

When we plant seeds to make food or plants it can be a lot of hard work. It takes time and the proper nutrients to help the seed to grow and develop. It is the same for us as Christians. We are to grow and become more like God. We can become more like Him by growing in our faith, growing in prayer, and growing in Christ.

Growing in Faith

Faith is the _____ for the life of the Christian.

Who are some men in the women in the Bible who had great faith? Did they face challenges that were easy or hard? What makes someone with faith different from someone without faith?

Growing in Prayer

_____ prayed and instructed us to follow His example. Prayer is our way of showing God that we _____ Him, _____ Him, and are _____ for Him.

Prayer is when we spend time with God _____ and _____ to Him.

We do not have to be afraid or scared to pray because the _____ _____ helps us to pray.

Write your own prayer of thankfulness to God.

Growing in Christ

When we made the decision to follow Jesus, we became His _____. The Bible says we should:

- **DENY YOURSELF** – This means not doing what you want, but doing what God desires and putting other people first.
- **TAKE UP YOUR CROSS** – Jesus had to carry a heavy cross on His way to die. There are going to be hard and heavy things you face as a Christian. You must take them and carry them; the great news is that the Holy Spirit will help you!
- **FOLLOW ME** – “Follow me” was the simple words Jesus commanded. This means that our lives are totally given to Him and we are living our lives as the Bible tells us.

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